

# **HUMAN-BLACK BEAR CONFLICT**

## **A REVIEW OF THE MOST COMMON MANAGEMENT PRACTICES**



A black bear in Lake Tahoe, NV. Photo courtesy [Urbanbearfootage.com](http://Urbanbearfootage.com)



Table 1 – State and jurisdictional population estimates, human-bear conflict/year, conflict bears killed/year; and conflict trends.

State	2015 Black Bear Population est.	Human-Bear Conflicts/Year <sup>2</sup>	Conflict Bears Killed/Year <sup>2</sup>	Conflict Trend
Alabama	125-225	31	1	Increasing
Alaska	100,000	1,133	27	Stable
Arizona	1,500-2,500	18	18	Stable
Arkansas	4,000-5,000	410	3	Increasing
California **	35,000	259	74	Stable
Colorado	17,000-20,000	N/A	275	Increasing
Connecticut	500-700	442	2	Increasing
Florida	3,000	5,584	22	Increasing
Georgia	5,100	1,488	7	Increasing
Idaho	27,000	≤100	≤25	Stable
Kentucky	500-700	386	6	Increasing
Louisiana	500-800	246	2	Increasing
Maine	31,000+	555	12	Increasing
Maryland	1,000+	337	4	Decreasing
Massachusetts	4,000-5,000	145	5	Increasing
Michigan	11,000	250	1	Stable
Minnesota	12,000-14,000	640	20	Stable
Mississippi	150-200	50	0	Increasing
Missouri	300	8	0	Increasing
Montana	13,307	N/A	177	Variable
Nevada	600	402	≤6	Increasing
New Hampshire	5,300	698	14	Stable
New Jersey	3,500	2,612	33	Increasing
New Mexico	6,000-8,000	368	120	Stable
New York	6,000-8,000	768	29	Stable

North Carolina	18,000-20,500	587	10	Increasing
Ohio	75	18	0	Stable
Oklahoma*	250	N/A	N/A	N/A
Oregon	25,000	483	361	Variable
Pennsylvania	18,000	2,112	33	Increasing
Rhode Island	10	6	0	Increasing
South Carolina	800-1,200	290	2	Stable
South Dakota	Very few	N/A	N/A	N/A
Tennessee	4,800	428	15	Stable
Texas	300	5	0	Variable
Utah	4,100	65	89	Increasing
Vermont	5,000-6,000	533	18	Stable
Virginia	17,000	838	3	Increasing
Washington***	25,000	529	250	Stable
West Virginia	10,000-12,000	946	80	Increasing
Wisconsin	22,620	1,105	12	Decreasing
Wyoming*	2,500-4,500	154	≤22	Stable
<b>Canada</b>				
Alberta ****	40,000	2,532	162	Stable
British Columbia	120,000-160,000	N/A	N/A	N/A
Manitoba *****	25,000-35,000	1,456	168	Decreasing
New Brunswick	17,000	201	N/A	Increasing
Newfoundland	6,000-8,000	N/A	N/A	Increasing
Northwest Territory	5,000+	N/A	N/A	N/A
Nova Scotia	10,000	471	22	Variable
Ontario	85,000-105,000	5,813	164	Stable
Quebec	71,000-83,000	738	137	Variable
Saskatchewan	24,000	N/A	N/A	N/A
Yukon	10,000	47	172	Increasing

**Table 1**

Population estimates, human/bear conflicts 2009-2014, and conflict trend From *Living With Bears Handbook* (Masterson 2016) and Survey of Agencies for Western and Eastern Black Bear Workshops (Beausoleil and Dobey 2015).

<sup>2</sup> Land area, human density, human residential patterns, agency policies and public tolerances related to handling conflict bears vary widely. In addition, a lack of standardization in reporting and record keeping limits comparisons across jurisdictions.

British Columbia estimate from Ministry of the Environment. Human-bear conflicts/year and conflict bears killed/year are reported 5-year averages.

\* Population numbers from 2005; new data not provided

\*\* Number of depredation permits issued that allows the property owner to kill the offending bear or hire someone to do so. On average 41% of permits issued result in a bear being killed.

\*\*\* 200 of the bears were killed under timber damage depredation permits issued to commercial lumber producers to mitigate damages.

\*\*\*\* Reported conflicts include sightings.

\*\*\*\*\* Conflicts have decreased 17% since implementing Bear Smart Program

➤ *Note: Population estimation methods and techniques vary considerably among jurisdictions. See Garshelis (2002) for more information.*



**A vacant home in Lake Tahoe, NV sustained \$80,000 in damage when two yearling black bears spent approximately six weeks entering the home at will - Courtesy UrbanBearFootage.com**